Charles G. D. Roberts

AND

The Watchers of the Trails

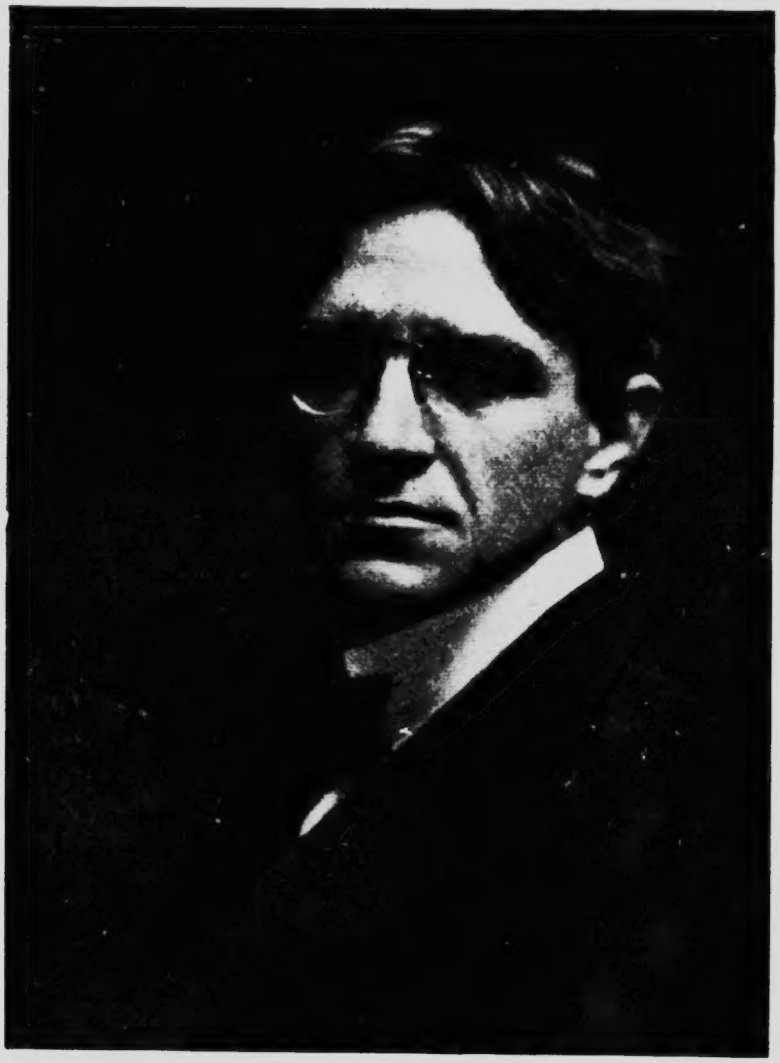
HIS SECOND BOOK OF ANIMAL LIFE

With some mention also of his complete works

L. C. PAGE & COMPANY

PUBLISHERS BOSTON

QL791



CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

Charles G. D. Roberts

AND

The Watchers of the Trails

HIS NEW BOOK OF ANIMAL LIFE

CHARLES GEORGE DOUGLAS ROBERTS, M. A., F. R. S. C., F R. S. L., was born in Douglas, at the mouth of the Keswick River, near Fredericton, N. B. His early boyhood was spent in Westcock, of which parish his father was rector, and the experiences of those early years have colored his life ever since.

Born with an intense love for nature, animate and inanimate, full of eager curiosity to solve her secrets, much of his time was spent in the woods and fields about his home. There he learned the ways of wild creatures, grew to know their instincts and habits, gained his knowledge of woodcraft, and, because he had the soul of a poet, saw beauty in all things

National Library of Canada Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

that touched his fancy, and dreamed dreams of them, as only a true poet can.

When he was fourteen, his people moved to Fredericton, where the boy was fitted for college. After he graduated he became a teacher for awhile, but the literary instinct was strong within him and, in 1895, he abandoned other pursuits and formally adopted the profession of literature, with the utmost justification, for few men of his years have achieved — and deservedly — the literary renown which his published works warrant.

In 1897 Professor Roberts removed to New York, where he has since resided, but not all the din of noisy streets, the never-ceasing rush of life in a great metropolis, nor the thousand and one distractions that beset the city dweller, have the power to dull his keen love for nature; that love comes to the front in whatever he writes, and his books are full of out-of-door atmosphere that breathes in their pages, and gives them a rare fragrance of their own.

A poet, a lover of nature, an essayist, a novelist, and one of the most acute and sym-

pathetic students of animal life this country knows! Whatever he gives us is good measure, pressed down and running over, but the work that he loves best to do are those marvellous delineations of the life in the Canadian backwoods and tide country, which his early childhood made familiar.

The two volumes of nature and animal

stories which he has already issued, "Earth's Enigmas" and "The Kindred of the Wild," have shown him to be unsurpassed in this field, and the third volume, "The Watchers of the Trails," now in preparation, will add new laurels.

"THE WATCHERS OF THE TRAILS" is a companion volume to "The Kindred of the Wild," and is a collection of his latest stories, written

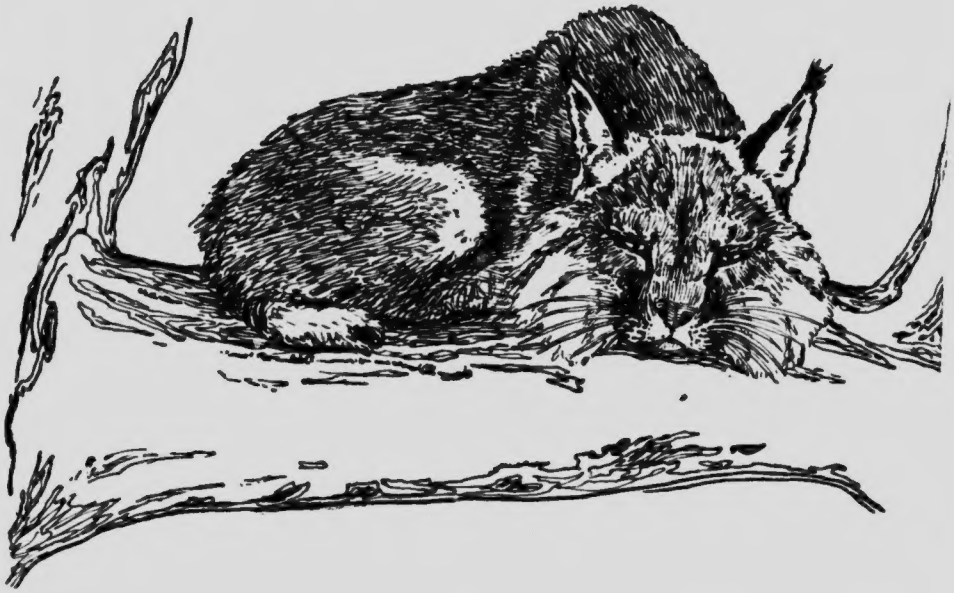
with that same sincerity and truthfulness which marked their forerunners. Like the stories in "Kindred," these tales are redolent of the deep forest, and full of the wonderful descriptions of the magical beauty the author's eyes have seen. Each one has directness and definition and action; each one shows the ways of nature with her children; and each one is told with fine restraint and the most subtle art.

Of "Earth's Enigmas," Richard Hovey said: "The problem of the struggle for existence, of the preying of life on life, is treated with an inexorable fidelity to the fact, a catholic sympathy, a sense of universality and mystery, and a calm acceptance, that reaches the level of 'pathos' in the highest Greek usage of the word. There is a finality in these prose

SPECIMEN ILLUSTRATION

poems that is known only to the greatest art."

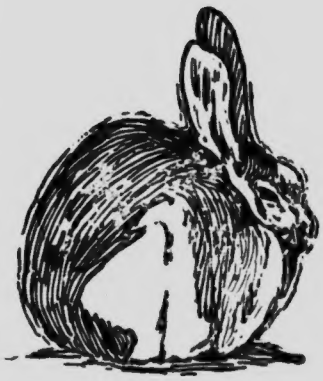
Mr. Roberts's nature stories are full of the secret symbolism of woods and waters. He makes his readers feel the charm and solitude



of the forest, and, while his tales require imagination, they infer as well human tenderness and knowledge. And, best of all, they are true, for Mr. Roberts is a naturalist. He catches accurately the elusive individualities of

which he writes, and his portrayals are masterpieces of sympathetic science.

"The Kindred of the Wild," his superb collection of animal stories, met with such unanimous praise, that one is confronted with an embarrassment of riches when trying to select a few representative extracts from the reviews of the critics and the public. In the *Atlantic Monthly*, John Burroughs wrote: "One finds much to commend and admire. The volume is, in many ways, the most brilliant collection of animal stories that has appeared;" and the review in the *Boston Transcript* reads as follows: "To 'The Kindred of the Wild' a welcome may unhesitatingly be given, for it is a collection of stories into which the author has put all the zest of a genuine enthusiasm, and the result is a volume of exceptional interest and merit." The *San Francisco Chronicle* said: "Mr. Roberts is a story-teller who has no living



superior in bringing out the romance of life in the forest." The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* writes: "There is nothing finer in literature than Mr. Roberts's picture of the Northern woods on a moonlit winter night." The *Philadelphia Press* said: "Professor Roberts has rarely done better literary work. Some of his verse may excel it, but only that." The *New York Evening Post:* "It is a masterpiece of its kind." The *Chicago Tribune:* "No more perfect achievement of its kind has come from the hand of man," and the *Brooklyn Eagle* credits it with being "incomparably the best in literature that has grown up about animals."

SPECIMEN ILLUSTRATION

And so we might go on and on, adding more extracts from the flood of commendation that poured in from all sections of the country, — commendation that will undoubtedly be repeated when "The Watchers of the Trails" appears.

Though the problems of animal life and nature appeal especially to him, and his bril-

liant tales of the perils of the untamed wilderness may be his particular metier, Mr. Roberts is by no means a singer of a single note. His keen and sympathetic analysis of human character and his rare and delightful powers of description are employed to equal advantage in his romances and novels.

"A Sister to Evangeline," "The Forge in the Forest," and "By the Marshes of Minas"

SPECIMEN ILLUSTRATION

are all romances of the country of "Our Lady of the Snows," and written with the exquisite care and taste that distinguishes his work.

"The Heart of the Ancient Wood," half romance, half nature story, is in Mr. Roberts's own opinion "the best sustained work of fiction I have yet done." When it appeared in 1900, stern critics and impassive reviewers found themselves breaking forth into enthusiastic admiration of its beauty. It is a story of a strange, elfin child, growing up in the forest, with its beasts as her playfellows, but coming at last into her woman's heritage of human love, which, once read, will never be forgotten.

His last novel, "Barbara Ladd," was a tale

of Colonial days, and of a beautiful, charming, bewitching Southern girl, who gleams against the sober Northern background like a scarlet flower against the dusky leafage.

Mr. Roberts is soon to publish a new novel, "The Prisoner of Mademoiselle," with the scene laid in that land of Acadia, which he loves so well. The story is based on the famous siege of Louisburg and possesses much of the witchery found in "Barbara," of which the *Chicago Evening Post* said, "Barbara is supposed to be prose, but there are interludes that are perilously near poetry."

To Mr. Roberts's poetry one word is always applicable, — exquisite. Many critics assert that he is a poet first and always, and certain it is that the poet can always be detected underneath the story-teller's mask.

"The Book of the Rose" was his last published collection of verse, — a chain of sweet and tender love-poems, that lilt along with charming melody.

One may not mention Mr. Roberts's works without including his authoritative and

scholarly "History of Canada" (a new and revised edition of which is to be issu l immediately), which is the only history of that land available.

COMPLETE WORKS OF

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

THE PRISONER OF MADEMOISELLE

Ready in the Fall of 1904

Library 12mo, cloth, gilt top, illustrated . . . $1.50

The scene of this new novel is laid in Mr. Roberts's dearly beloved Acadia, and the incidents are based on the famous siege of Louisburg. The hero is a young British officer who sails from Boston in command of a company of the king's troops, only to be taken captive by the Grand Seigneur of Louisburg, and to fall a prisoner to the charms of the Seigneur's daughter, the fair mademoiselle.

The story is written in Mr. Roberts's characteristic style, and is full of delicate humor and dainty grace and fascinating touches of outdoor life. Added to that are scenes of tenseness and strength which surpass those in "The Forge in the Forest," and it is easy to be seen that here is a romance worthy of enrolment in the list of Mr. Roberts's work.

THE WATCHERS OF THE TRAILS

Decorative binding, small quarto, illustrated by Charles Livingston Bull $2.00

This is a companion volume to "The Kindred of the Wild," and is another collection of those stories of nature and animal life which have made the author famous as the exponent of the primitive and the savage.

His enthusiasm and love of nature so color his work that his stories are not mere narratives, but wonderful portrayals of the ways of Mother Earth with her children.

THE KINDRED OF THE WILD

Decorative binding, small quarto, gilt top, illustrated $2.00

This book of animal stories is a most interesting addition to the list of nature classics. The author has studied with close and unwearied attention the lives of the furred and feathered creatures of the wilderness and hunted trails, and has given us, says the *Chicago Evening Post*, "A book that will be read and re-read." The *New York Sun* said of it, "He makes us feel the solitude and charm of the forest, and arouses and holds our interest in the lives of its inmates."

EARTH'S ENIGMAS

Library 12mo, cloth, uncut edges, illustrated . . $1.50

A reprint of Mr. Roberts's first volume of fiction, the repeated demand for which has been stimulated by his recent great successes.

Additional stories have been included after the manner of "The Kindred of the Wild." For their freshness and sincerity these tales are sure to arrest attention.

"Mr. Roberts's prose art has reached a high degree of perfection. . . . In 'Earth's Enigmas' there is a wider range of subject than in 'The Kindred of the Wild.'" — *Tiffany Blake in Chicago Evening Post.*

THE HEART OF THE ANCIENT WOOD

Library 12mo, gilt top, decorative cover, illustrated . $1.50

The atmosphere of this romance is enchantingly fresh. As a writer in the *Boston Herald* said, it comes like a cooling breeze into a heated literature.

The reader feels the whispering music of the trees, the power of the shady silences, the dignity of the beasts who live so close to the heart of the Wood.

This is because Mr. Roberts knows the Wood intimately and reverently. "It is a message straight from the heart of nature," says the *North American*. "Dainty and delicate as a wild rose, fragrant as wood violets; it is like a breath of the forest put into articulate speech," says the *Brooklyn Eagle*.

It is also thoroughly popular. With all its fineness it is intensely dramatic, and it touches a universal sympathy. "It is a book to keep and re-read," says the *Hartford Critic*.

BARBARA LADD

One volume, library 12mo, cloth decorative, gilt top, illustrated $1.50

"Dainty and delicate as a wild rose, fragrant as wood violets," said the critics of "The Heart of the Ancient Wood," that "classic twentieth century romance." It would perhaps be impossible even for Mr. Roberts to surpass the quality of this earlier tale in its nearness to nature; but in "Barbara Ladd" the charm of human interest is felt in even stronger degree. Barbara, a flashing dryad, flits across the sober tapestry of the forest and the primitive calm of the colonial settlement, brilliant and wayward as a wood-bird. There is no more fascinating heroine in Mr. Roberts's gallery of portraits.

THE FORGE IN THE FOREST

Being the Narrative of the Acadian Ranger, Jean de Mer, Seigneur de Briart, and how he crossed the Black Abbé, and of his Adventures in a Strange Fellowship. Illustrated by Henry Sandham, R. C. A.

Library 12mo, cloth, gilt top, deckle-edge paper . $1.50

The story is one of pure love and heroic adventure during the struggle between the French and English for the possession of North America, and deals with that fiery fringe of conflict that waved between Nova Scotia and New England.

A SISTER TO EVANGELINE

Being the Story of Yvonne de Lamourie, and how she went into Exile with the Villagers of Grand Pré.

Library 12mo, cloth, deckle-edge paper, gilt top, illustrated, $1.50

This is a romance of the great expulsion of the Acadians which Longfellow first immortalized in "Evangeline." Swift action, fresh atmosphere, wholesome purity, deep passion, searching analysis, characterize this strong novel; and the tragic theme of the exile is relieved by the charm of the wilful demoiselle and the spirit of the courtly seigneur, who bring the manners of old France to the Acadian woods.

BY THE MARSHES OF MINAS

Library 12mo, cloth, gilt top, illustrated . . . $1.50

This is a volume of romance of love and adventure in that picturesque period when Nova Scotia was passing from the French to the English régime, of which Professor Roberts is the acknowledged celebrant. Each tale is independent of the others, but the scenes are similar. Most of these romances are in the author's lighter and more playful vein; each is a unit of absorbing interest and exquisite workmanship.

VERSE

COMPLETE POEMS

One volume, library 12mo, cloth, gilt top, with a photogravure portrait $1.50

In this volume are gathered together the best of Professor Roberts's miscellaneous poems, and the book comprises one of the most delightful collections of American verse extant.

BOOK OF THE ROSE

Tall 16mo, illustrated with a colored frontispiece from an original painting by Frank Verbeck, decorative format, cloth, $1.00 *net*

Flexible leather . . . . . 1.50 *net*

A book of love-poems of which the *Philadelphia Press* says, "They are fine and sweet in thought and execution."

SONGS OF THE COMMON DAY

(Out of print) $1.00

IN DIVERS TONES

(Out of print). Cloth and gold 1.00

THE BOOK OF THE NATIVE

Cloth and gold 1.00

NEW YORK NOCTURNES

Cloth and gold 1.00

These volumes include Professor Roberts's poems from the time of his first recognition as a master poet. The wondrous appreciation of nature, the sensibility to the poetry in common things, the virile exalted passion, the playfulness, the perspective, the splendid workmanship of this poet are apparent in all of them.

HISTORY

A HISTORY OF CANADA

Large 8vo, cloth, gilt top . . . . . $2.00 *net*

No other living writer is so equipped for an ideal history of Canada as Professor Roberts, who unites profound scholarship, balanced judgment, rich and graceful style, and a patriotic love for the land of his birth.

Noble is the word to characterize this new and obviously just history of the British Dominion in North America. A stimulating breeze of freshness seems to blow through it. We find the influence of Parkman, which is as it should be, but the point of view is distinct and modern.

This book is of particular interest to Americans for its independent treatment of the many questions in dispute between the two countries, from the Revolution to the present. With its maps, charts, appendices, giving the British and Imperial acts in full, and with its compactness of presentation and its fine perspective, it is of equal value for the citizen's library or a university text.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

The Prisoner of Mademoiselle (*in preparation*)	$1.50
The Watchers of the Trails	2.00
The Kindred of the Wild	2.00
Earth's Enigmas	1.50
The Heart of the Ancient Wood	1.50
Barbara Ladd	1.50
The Forge in the Forest	1.50
A Sister to Evangeline	1.50
By the Marshes of Minas	1.50
Complete Poems	1.50
The Book of the Rose cloth, *net*	1.00
limp leather, *net*,	1.50
Songs of the Common Day (*Out of print*)	1.00
In Divers Tones (*Out of print*)	1.00
The Book of the Native	1.00
New York Nocturnes	1.00
A History of Canada *net*,	2.00

PUBLISHED BY

L. C. PAGE & COMPANY

BOSTON, MASS.